



BCC 2007-263
October 16, 2007

RECEIVED

NOV - 7 2007

D.N.R.C.

John Tubbs, Administrator
Water Resources Division
Montana Department of Natural
Resources and Conservation
P.O. Box 201601
Helena, MT 59620-1601

Dear Mr. Tubbs:

Gerald Mueller recently met with the Commissioners and explained the State initiative to contract with the United States Bureau of Reclamation for water stored in the Hungry Horse Reservoir. This would support new consumptive water uses in the Clark Fork River basin, as well as uses based on water rights junior to the lower basin hydropower water rights.

The Missoula County Commission sees no problem with this initiative. Given the population growth occurring in the basin, which is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, provision must be made to provide for new water demands. Acquiring water now, stored in the Hungry Horse Reservoir for use by Montanans, appears to be a reasonable way to proceed.

We ask that the Clark Fork Task Force and the DNRC continue to keep Missoula County informed as this initiative progresses. Thank you.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Jean Curtiss, Chair



Bill Carey, Commissioner



Larry Anderson, Commissioner

BCC/ppr

cc: Clark Fork Task Force
c/o Gerald Mueller
440 Evans
Missoula, MT 59801